

# THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN

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A Journal of Public History

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*Sponsored by the National Council on Public History  
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# THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN

## EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Public Historian* is a quarterly journal sponsored by the National Council on Public History and the University of California, Santa Barbara, with the support of Rutgers University, Camden, and is published by the University of California Press. It is the flagship journal in the field of public history. It emphasizes original research, fresh conceptualizations, and new viewpoints. The journal's contents reflect the considerable diversity of approaches to the definition and practice of public history.

*The Public Historian* provides practicing professionals and others the opportunity to report the results of research and case studies and to address the broad substantive and theoretical issues inherent in the practice of public history. The journal aims to provide a comprehensive look at the field.

*The Public Historian* publishes a variety of article types, including research articles, essays, and reports from the field. Research articles deal with specific, often comparatively framed, public historical issues. They employ public history methodologies (material culture analysis, oral history, participant observation) in addition to traditional historical research to shed new light on historical questions and issues. These articles should be around thirty pages double-spaced, exclusive of footnotes (about 10,000 to 12,000 words). Essays are reflective commentaries on topics of interest to public historians. Their length varies, but they are usually about twenty-five pages. Reports from the Field are intended to convey the real-world work of public historians by highlighting specific projects or activities in which the author is directly involved; these articles may describe new or ongoing projects, introduce or assess new methodologies, or bring in-the-field dilemmas (methodological, ethical, and historical) into print. Reports from the Field vary widely in length (from about fifteen to thirty pages). Additionally, *The Public Historian* occasionally publishes roundtables, which are shorter essays in conversation with each other about a specific topic.

In its review section, *The Public Historian* assesses current publications by and of interest to public historians, including government publications, cultural resources management reports, and corporate histories, as well as scholarly and trade press publications. The journal also reviews films and documentaries, digital and electronic media productions, museums, exhibitions, and podcasts. We do not accept unsolicited reviews; we do, however, welcome suggestions for material to review (please email [hist-publichistory@ucsb.edu](mailto:hist-publichistory@ucsb.edu)). If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please visit the Reviewer page on the journal's website: <http://tph.ucpress.edu/content/reviewers>.

The editors welcome the submission of manuscripts by all those interested in the theory, teaching, and practice of public history, both in the United States and internationally. We are looking for manuscripts that make a significant contribution to the definition, understanding, and/or professional and intellectual progress of the field of public history. We conceive of the term *public history* broadly, as involving historical research, analysis, and presentation, with some degree of explicit application to the needs of contemporary life.

Research articles, essays, and reports from the field are subject to anonymous peer review and revisions will be suggested before the editors will accept an article for publication.

Only manuscripts not previously published will be accepted. Submitted articles must not be under consideration at another journal. Authors must agree not to publish elsewhere, without explicit written consent, an article accepted for publication in *The Public Historian*.

*The Public Historian* encourages letters to the editor that expand the discussion of topics covered in the journal. If a letter specifically concerns an article or review published in *The Public Historian*, the author or reviewer will be invited to respond. Letters responding to reviews may not exceed 250 words; letters responding to articles may not exceed 750 words. The editors reserve the right to refuse to publish any letter whose tone or content are inconsistent with the conventional standards of scholarly discourse expected in a historical journal.

Please submit manuscripts and letters to the editors by email to the managing editor at the address below.

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## Letter to the Editor

It has been too rare in recent years to read in the pages of *The Public Historian* an essay as intellectually weighty, broadly informed, wide-ranging, analytically astute, and relevant to the work not just of public historians but of all historians as Michael J. Brown's "Overlapping Origins, Diverging Paths: 'Public History' and the 'Public Intellectual'" in the May 2023 issue of this journal. His piece deserves the widest possible reading and attention, which I hope the author and the journal's editors will promote. While others, like I, may find some elements of his presentation of

the tensions between public history and public intellectualism disputable, Brown's emphasis on process-oriented history is greatly compelling and worth further exposition and consideration. Would it not be fitting for *The Public Historian* to promote that further elaboration and deliberation by means of a multi-authored forum in one or more future issues?

JAMES M. BANNER JR.

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